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SUBJECT: Prime Minister officially names cabinet

¶1. On January 7, 10 months after being installed by the National Assembly, Prime Minister Gizenga officially named the remaining 58 members of his cabinet. Like Gizenga, most are natives of Bandundu province. He had named nine principal counselors in June 2007. The January decree replaced two of them, as well as granting the same status to the head of the prime minister's medical unit. One of the two principal counselors that were replaced is Jean-Claude Nachega, the South Kivu native and an IMF official educated in the U.S., as principal counselor for economic and financial affairs. The decree also named 52 counselors and three secretaries.

¶2. The Prime Minister's cabinet is divided into nine units -- called "colleges" in French -- each headed by a principal counselor:

- Legal, political and administrative
- Ethics, anti-corruption and public administration reform
- Social development and combating poverty
- Economic and financial
- Social and cultural
- Infrastructure and reconstruction
- Technical and environment
- Strategy, defense, security and inter-institutional relations
- Evaluation and oversight.

¶3. The family names of the 58 appointed indicate perhaps only 10 may have origins outside Bandundu. There are nine women among them. The group of principal counselors appointed last June included four from the central Kasai provinces, four from Bandundu or Bas-Congo and one from South Kivu.

¶4. Well-known figures among those appointed include: Octave Mankondo Idrissa, from Bandundu, a former dean of the School of Economics at Kinshasa University, as one of several counselors in the control and oversight unit; Frederic Kimwanga Fundji, also from Bandundu, a chemistry lecturer at the Faculty of Science at Kinshasa University, as counselor for oil issues; Aurelie Bitondo, vice-governor of South Kivu during the transition, counselor for reform of auxiliary services; Florence Munsala, of Bas-Congo and head of an NGO, as counselor for gender issues.

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